

**SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT
CHILDREN'S COLORADO**

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

In 2020, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado (SRF) helped 33 children receive speech-language or learning therapy in Colorado Springs. The table below summarizes the number of children served, the SRF contribution for this service, and the average cost per child for these services.

Program	Number Served	SRF Contribution	Average Cost Per Child
Total Individual & group speech-language and learning therapy	33	\$108,615	\$3,291

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children's Colorado currently has two primary networks of care (NOC) locations in Colorado Springs (COS), Printers Park and Briargate. Briargate is conveniently located across from the new Children's Hospital Colorado. Each location provides speech-language and feeding therapy services to children from birth to 21 years with a variety of medical and developmental diagnoses.

Children's Colorado continues to offer learning services at their Briargate and Printer's Park clinics and has been since September 2018. We were very proud to bring on two new full-time learning specialists, one at each NOC, this past fall. The learning services program provides diagnostic learning evaluations and learning therapy services for children and adolescents suspected of having a learning disability or having overall difficulty in school. These services are invaluable to our community to ensure that our patients can develop lifelong learning skills and achieve academic success.

The Audiology, Speech-Language, and Learning Department of Children's Colorado in COS currently employs 16 speech-language pathologists, two learning specialists, and a pediatric audiologist team. The number of children seen for speech, language, learning, feeding, and audiology services by Children's Colorado in COS continues to grow, with an increased number of visits and children served each year. Treatment continues to be available in various specialty areas, including augmentative and alternative communication, resonance and voice, feeding and swallowing, deaf and hard of hearing program, bilingual speech and language therapy, social skills, language, and reading and early language development. Due to COVID-19, our department quickly adopted telepractice for service provision during the spring of 2020 and has continued to use telepractice due to in-person visit restrictions. We will continue to utilize this model of care in tandem with in-person therapy due to the tremendous potential it has to support our families who live a great distance from COS or cannot be seen in person in the clinics.

Children's Colorado continues to offer various evaluations and specialty clinics that are not available elsewhere in southern Colorado. Our program works closely with physicians and specialists to provide well-rounded developmental care in our specialty clinics, including Autism and Developmental Disorders Clinic, Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, feeding, swallowing, and Hearing Clinic.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Children's Hospital Colorado documents the effectiveness of treatment through validated, standardized clinical measures and parent surveys. We use our electronic health record to track outcomes for children who receive Scottish Rite Funding. These assessments are conducted based on evidence-based care and are part of the standard of care assessments, and all data are de-identified. These assessment tools in the database target social communication skills, language comprehension, expressive language, and articulation abilities and are administered upon a child's entry to therapy and six months intervals thereafter. Pre and post-assessment scores are entered into the database every 6-12 months depending on the acceptable timeframe for re-administered tools.

LEADERSHIP

Children's Colorado in COS is proud to continue to provide mentorship, observation, and internship opportunities to graduate students, which allows us to train the next generation of therapists. Children's Colorado therapists provided internship placement for one graduate student in 2020. However, this was a little different from years past (due to COVID), as this student was only able to observe and train virtually (via telepractice). However, with that said, our supervising clinician still provided the same high quality of experience and support. We will plan to provide virtual placements for several more graduate students in the upcoming year regardless of COVID restrictions.

Children's Colorado in COS collaborates with physicians within the community and in the Children's Colorado system to offer multidisciplinary clinics that are not available elsewhere in southern Colorado. These clinics allow the families in our community to access high-quality medical and developmental services that address their children's needs with complex medical and developmental diagnoses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) of Colorado has been a consistent and invaluable resource for families in southern Colorado to ensure that their children receive high-quality and evidence-based interventions necessary for appropriate development of speech, language, and learning. In 2020 alone, the SRF scholarships offered to our southern CO families were invaluable to many whose primary insurance providers denied coverage for speech therapy services provided via telepractice. This coming year, Children's Colorado in COS anticipates continued growth, including an increased number of patients, an ever-expanding list of services and specialty clinics, continued offering of therapy groups and parent education programs, and improved access to care with additional staff to better serve our community. We greatly value the unwavering support provided by the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado for our patients and families.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children.

Respectfully submitted,
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